

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 25 are pending in the application, with Claims 27 to 30 having been canceled herein. Claims 1 and 8 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for the indication in the Office Action that Claims 1 to 25 have been allowed.

Claims 27 to 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,452,147 (Inada). Without conceding the correctness or propriety of this claim rejection, the cancellation of Claims 27 to 30 herein renders moot the claim rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the foregoing claim rejection is respectfully requested.

No other matters having been raised in the Office Action, and in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 40,595

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-2200  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CA\_MAIN 75601 v 1